

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2032

S E C R E T CAIRO 5025

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US EG XF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CODELS MATHIAS AND EAGLETON MEETINGS WITH ARAFAT

1. DURING MEETING WITH CODELS MATHIAS AND EAGLETON
APRIL 14, CODEL ASKED SADAT ABOUT CURRENT STRENGTH OF PLO
CHAIRMAN ARAFAT. SADAT SAID ARAFAT'S LEADERSHIP CONTINUES
TO BE GREATLY THREATENED AND "WE SHOULD ALL HELP HIM".
SADAT SAID HE HAD FOR A LONG TIME URGED PRESIDENT FORD
AND SECRETARY KISSINGER TO BEGIN DIALOGUE WITH PLO.

2. CODELS SAID THEY PLANNED TO MEET WITH ARAFAT IN NEXT
FEW DAYS. SADAT SAID THAT WOULD BE "VERY GOOD" AND SERVE TO
STRENGTHEN ARAFAT'S POSITION. SUCH MEETINGS WILL ALSO
HELP ISRAELIS SAVE FACE WHEN THEY ARE FINALLY FORCED TO SIT
WITH PLO. SADAT OFFERED TO HAVE FAHMY CONTACT PLO REP
IN CAIRO TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING MEETINGS FOR CODELS WITH
ARAFAT. HE URGED CODELS NOT TO MEET WITH ARAFAT
IN SYRIA BUT IN LEBANON OR ELSEWHERE WHERE ARAFAT
WOULD BE ABLE TO "SPEAK FREELY AND FRANKLY". CODELS
ACCEPTED SADAT'S OFFER.

3. SUGGEST DEPT. REPEAT TO DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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